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Michigan Humane Society Helps Introduce Bills to Ban Ownership of Exotic Animals

LANSING, Mich., Sept. 30 /PRNewswire/ -- Two bills prohibiting private ownership of exotic animals, including wolf-hybrids, were introduced Thursday simultaneously in the state Senate. The bills were drafted by a coalition which includes the Michigan Humane Society, the Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, the Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers, the Detroit Zoological Institute and experts on wolves and wolf-hybrids.

Senator Leon Stille and Senator Bill Bullard sponsored the bills.

Senate Bill 705 bans ownership, breeding and sale of wolf dog hybrids, and Senate Bill 782 imposes a ban on owning, breeding or selling exotic cats, bears and primates.

The MHS believes this legislation is critical and long overdue.

In recent years, at least six people in Michigan, four of them children, have been killed and many others seriously injured by these animals. Most owners are not trained or equipped to provide appropriate care and housing, and the animals can pose a serious risk to humans. The animals themselves often lead pathetic lives, forced into an unnatural environment as domestic "pets."

The Michigan Humane Society asks voters to contact their Senators to voice support for the new laws. For more information, contact the Michigan Humane Society at 734-721-2109.

SOURCE The Michigan Humane Society

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